



**Yuma County, Arizona**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

2703 S. Avenue B • Yuma, Arizona 85364

Harold Aldrich  
Director  
(928) 329-2300  
FAX: (928) 726-5626

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Interpretation file

FROM: Monty Stansbury, Planning Director *MS*

SUBJECT: Ornamental and/or wrought iron fence-structures

DATE: February 25, 2004

---

**QUESTION:** Does an ornamental and/or wrought iron fence, whether freestanding or attached to any other material, require compliance with Section 1108.03 of the Yuma County Zoning Ordinance?

**Zoning Ordinance Section 1108.03--Fences, Walls and Hedges**

In all residential districts, the following regulations of fences, walls and hedges shall apply:

- A. No fence, wall or hedge exceeding three feet in height above grade shall be erected, placed, planted or allowed to remain in or along the front or side lot line of any required front yard except the non-access side or sides of double or triple fronting lots, but in any case subject to Section 1101.

**Zoning Ordinance Section 1101.00--Sight Distance at Intersections**

On corner lots in any district, no object or thing shall be erected, placed, planted or allowed to remain, of either permanent or temporary nature, which materially impedes vision between a height of two and one-half feet and eight feet above the centerline grades of the intersecting streets in the area bounded by the street lines of such corner lot and a line joining points along said street lines twenty-five feet from the point of intersection of the front yard lot lines for a local street, one hundred feet for a collector street, and one hundred thirty feet for an arterial street.

By definition:

A Glossary of Zoning, Development, and Planning Terms; edited by Michael Davidson and Fay Dolnick; Planning Advisory Service, 1999.

Fence – An enclosure or barrier, such as wooden posts, wire, iron, etc., used as a boundary, means of protection, privacy screening or confinement, but not including hedges, shrubs, trees, or other natural growth. (*Blue Springs, MO*)

Fence – An artificially constructed barrier of wood, masonry, stone, wire, metal, or other manufactured material or combination of materials erected to enclose, screen, or separate areas. (*Maryland Heights, MO*)

Fence – A structure, solid or otherwise, which is a barrier and used as a boundary or means of protection, confinement, or concealment. (*Roswell, NM*)

Random House Webster's College Dictionary; ©1999.

Fence – A barrier enclosing or bordering a field, yard, etc., usually made of posts and wire or wood, used to prevent entrance, confine a person or thing, or mark a boundary. (*This closely resembles the definition provided within The Zoning Dictionary, Millennium Edition, 1999*)

#### CONCLUSION:

Yes. Any wrought iron and/or ornamental structure that is used to mark a boundary, provide protection of property or cause a separation of areas is determined to be a fence. Therefore, as a fence it is subject to the regulatory authority of the Zoning Ordinance and if exceeding six feet in height, the requirements of the Uniform Building Code.

cc: H. Aldrich, C. Cansler, M. Carrasco, D. McDowell, E. Feheley, file

P:\Planning\_Zoning\Plan\_Director\MONTY\interpretations\M022504fence.doc